

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 241535Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7588

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1509

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: GR SEDU

SUBJECT: UNSTABLE GREEK UNIVERSITY SCENE

1. SUMMARY. GREECE'S HIGHER EDUCATION CONTINUES IN TURMOIL WITH RADICAL STUDENTS THE ONLY DYNAMIC CAMPUS FORCE AND PROFESSORS INTIMIDATED BY STUDENTS AND GOG ACQUIESCENCE IN DEJUNTIZATION OF TEACHERS. LAST WEEK, MINISTERS EDUCATION AND DEFENSE TOOK SHARP OFFICIAL SLAPS AT STUDENTS, PRIMARILY AS SOP TO THAT PART OF POLITICAL RIGHT WHICH IS DISENCHANTED WITH "SOFT" POLICY. GOG ON FEB 24 APPOINTED EDUCATIONAL NON-ENTITY AND POLITICAL LIGHTWEIGHT TO KEY JOB DEALING WITH ACADEMIC REFORM. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER EDUCATION ZEPPOS, WHO HAS MAINTAINED COMPETENT AND BENIGN BUREAUCRATIC POSTURE IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH STUDENTS DURING PAST THREE MONTHS, MADE SHARP COMMENT AGAINST STUDENTS ON FEB 23. HE SPOKE OF OFFICIAL "DEEP SORROW AT CURRENT DISTURBANCES IN UNIVERSITIES -- ABSTENTION FROM ATTENDING CLASSES, STUDENT TRIALS WHICH STAIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE PROFESSORS, AND OTHER ACTIONS OPPOSED TO TRADITIONAL UNIVERSITY ORDER. SUCH ACTIONS ARE LEADING INEVITABLY TO THE ABROGATION OF THE COMMON

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EFFORTS DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE UNIVERSITIES IN REGAINING

THEIR ROUTINE OPERATION SO THAT THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR WILL NOT BE LOST FOR THE STUDENTS." MINDEF AVEROFF ALSO SLAPPED AT STUDENTS WITH A STRONG DENUNCIATION OF HUNGER STRIKERS WHO MARRED ANNUAL COMMEMORATION IN IOANNINA ON FEB 21 OBSERVING 62D ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION FROM TURKS.

3. ZEPPOS STATEMENT APPEARS TO BE INSPIRED BY NEED TO REASSURE NEW DEMOCRACY RIGHTWING AND PUBLIC OPINION GENERALLY, WHICH IS EXPOSED TO STEADY STREAM OF ANTI-STUDENT DEMONSTRATION EDITORIALS IN ACROPOSIS, ELEFTEROS COSMOS, AND ESTIA, AND TO PLACATE PARLIAMENTARY LOBBYING OF GENERALLY CONSERVATIVE EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENT, WHICH IS FRIGHTENED IT MIGHT LOSE PREROGATIVES PLACED IN JEOPARDY BY STUDENT DEJUNTIZATION MOVEMENT. MUCH OF PRESS SEEMED TO TAKE DELIGHT JUXTAPOSING ON FRONT PAGE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS; ONE SHOWED PRESIDENT STASSINOPOULOS REVIEWING USUAL PARADE OF YOUNG MEN AND GIRLS PASSING IN TRADITIONAL COSTUMES; OTHER PHOTO WAS OF LONG HAIREDD STUDENTS IN FORTIETH DAY OF A STRIKE FAST FOR IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS AND FURTHER DEJUNTIZATION OF REGIONAL UNIVERSITY AT IOANNINA. AS DEPUTY FOR THE AREA, AVEROFF SEEMED EMBARRASSED AND VENTED HIS ANGER IN PUBLIC STATEMENT.

4. FACULTY DISCONTENT WITH STUDENT MILITANTS WAS MANIFESTED IN DRAMATIC PUBLIC GESTURE WITH RESIGNATION LAST WEEK OF DISTINGUISHED ATHENS UNIVERSITY LAW PROFESSOR, NICHOLAS DEVLETOGLOU. HE PROTESTED TO ZEPPOS THAT HIS RESIGNATION WAS PROMPTED BY THE "HISTORICALLY UNPRECEDENTED UNDERMINING OF ACADEMIC AUTHORITY AND THE DREADFUL DETERIORATION IN THE QUALITY OF ACADEMIC LIFE". FEW, IF ANY, DISGRUNTLED PROFESSORS ARE EXPECTED TO EMULATE DEVLETOGLOU'S RESIGNATION ON PRINCIPLE, BUT THIS PROTEST BY A SOLID MEMBER OF THE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL ELITE SUGGESTS THE REACTION AGAINST STUDENTS IS INCREASING. AN UNUSUALLY TOUGH FACULTY STANCE AT PATRAS UNIVERSITY BROUGHT STUDENTS TO NEGOTIATING THIS WEEKEND AND RESULTED IN A PARTIAL END TO THE STUDENT BOYCOTT OF CLASSES. FACULTY

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ORGANIZED A COUNTER BOYCOTT AND PLEDGED NOT TO RESUME CLASSES FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR UNLESS STUDENTS RETURNED TO CLASSES THIS WEEK. KATHIMERINI, WHICH IS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO STUDENT DEMANDS, BOTH ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL, TOOK COGNIZANCE OF RECENT TURMOIL IN LEAD EDITORIAL FEB 23 WHICH ARGUED THAT FACTS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT STUDENT DEMANDS, WHICH SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE PLACED IN SOME PRIORITY AND WITHOUT

EXPECTATION OF OVERNIGHT MIRACLES. EDITORIAL NOTED THAT MANY PROFESSORS ARE MORE EMOTIONALLY WROUGHT UP THAN STUDENTS, WHO SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THEIR DEDICATION TO DEMOCRACY IS BEST SERVED BY COOPERATING WITH AUTHORITIES SO THAT UNIVERSITIES IN NEAR FUTURE WILL RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE SHARPENING PUBLIC CRITICISM OF STUDENT MILITANTS, GOG CONTINUES WITH ITS BASIC STRATEGY OF ACQUIESCENCE IN UNIVERSITY LEVEL DEJUNTIZATION WITH SOME PURGINGS, ALBEIT PROBABLY NOT VERY EXTENSIVE AT THE END; TO AVOID PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION WITH STUDENTS AT THE COST OF CONSIDERABLE DAMNING BY THE RIGHT AND OF DEBASING THE ENTIRE ACADEMIC YEAR; TO FINESSE THE REFORM ISSUE -- THERE IS SIMPLY NOT MONEY FOR THE REFORMS --- AND PROBABLY NOT THE BUREAUCRATIC WILL EITHER EVEN WITH A HEFTY INCREASE IN THE PROPOSED 1975 EDUCATION BUDGET; AND TO TRUST THAT MANY OF THE MILITANTS MAY BE GRADUATED BY NEXT FALL - MAJOR EXAMS HAVE GONE ON IN JAN, AND ARE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE, NOTWITHSTANDING THAT MANY CLASSES WILL HAVE NEVER MET. THIS OVERALL STRATEGY HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF WORKING TO ACCOMPLISH THE LIMITED GOAL OF SURVIVAL IN 1974-75 ACADEMIC YEAR IN WHICH STUDENT VIOLENCE CONTINUES AS POTENTIAL THREAT TO POLITICAL NORMALIZATION PROCESS. AS SUGGESTED BY KATHIMERINI EDITORIAL, THERE IS NOT A BROAD BASIS TO SUPPORT, AS YET, THE GOG ASSUMING A TOUGHER STANCE VIS-A-VIS THE STUDENTS. AS FOR THE ROUTE OF REAL ACADEMIC CHANGES, THE APPOINTMENT FEB 22 OF ATHANASSIOS TALIADOUIROS, WHO IS AN AFFABLE POLITICAL FRONT MAN AND EDUCATIONAL NON-ENTITY, TO THE KEY JOB DEALING WITH ACADEMIC REFORM, APPEARS TO CONFIRM THAT GOG WILL

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GIVE AT MOMENT ONLY LIP SERVICE TO THIS MATTER.  
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## Message Attributes

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